
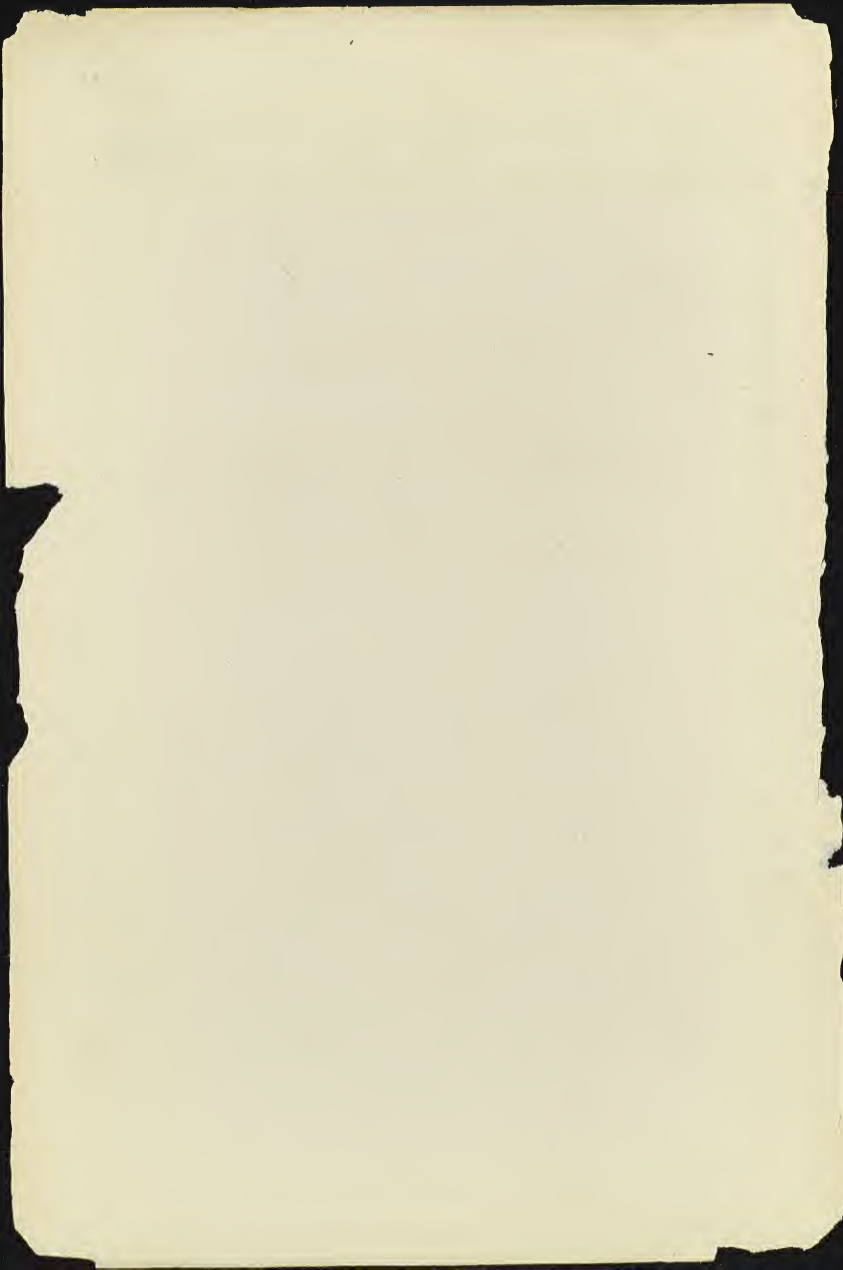


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Germanistic Society of America

Annual Report
1917

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New York
1917

Germanistic Society of America

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Dr. A. Jacobi
19 East 47th Street

Honorary Vice-President

Andrew D. White

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Edward D. Adams (1919) Oswald G. Villard (1920)
Camillo von Klenze (1918)

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Carl L. Schurz, 45 Broadway

Recording Secretary

Franz Boas

Corresponding Secretary

W. A. Braun, 419 West 117th Street

Directors

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs. Emil Boas (1918) | Dr. Willy Meyer (1920) |
| Nicholas Murray Butler (1919) | Calvin Thomas (1918) |
| Ernst Lemcke (1919) | Charlemagne Tower (1920) |

Annual Report of the Secretary

Germanistic Society of America, 1917

THE following report of the Secretary of the Germanistic Society of America covers the period from December 1, 1916 to December 1, 1917. It has been a momentous year for the Society. At the beginning of the year there seemed to be no reason why the usual program of activities should not again be planned and successfully carried through, especially in view of the fact that, as has been so often and so emphatically stated, the Society's activities have never had the remotest political interest or tendency. Thus it was that in the summer and fall of 1916 the Committee on Program again arranged for a series of lectures on German literature and art, while the editorial board of the Germanistic Society Quarterly planned for the regular appearance of the Society's magazine, which had now been thoroughly well received and well established.

Nor were all these plans, although interrupted before the end of the year, made in vain; indeed, it is perhaps not too much to say that the program of lectures has rarely included more notable names than those of 1916-1917. It may also be stated that, as in former years, the attendance was fully sustained throughout the entire series. There were delivered before the Society, under the conditions now so familiar to all its members, eight lectures as follows:

November 27, 1916. Professor Kuno Francke (Harvard University), Hotel Astor, "The Future of Germany"

December 15, 1916. Professor Douglas Johnson (Columbia University), Schermerhorn Hall, "The Topography of the War"

- January 10, 1917. Professor A. F. J. Remy (Columbia University), Academy of Medicine, "Wagner's Tristan and Isolde," assisted by Mrs. Alfred Remy at the piano
- January 10, 1917. Professor Moritz J. Bonn (Technische Hochschule, Munich), Academy of Medicine, "Germany's Social Ideas"
- February 5, 1917. Professor Ludwig Lewisohn (Ohio State University), Earl Hall, "The Human Element in German Lyric Poetry"
- February 19, 1917. Mr. Fritz Endell, Academy of Medicine, "Die Gastfreundschaft und ihre Zeichen"
- March 12, 1917. Professor Edward Devine, (Director New York School of Philanthropy), Hotel Astor, "German Philanthropy, Public and Private"
- March 30, 1917. Professor Camillo von Klenze, (College of the City of New York), Rumford Hall, "The German City Beautiful"

As in previous years the Society again coöperated with the German Theater, both in the purchase of gallery and balcony seats for free distribution among students and teachers of high schools and private schools, as well as among the colleges of the city; and also in patronizing the gala performance of Shakespeare's "Othello" in German at the Metropolitan Opera House on the evening of March 27, 1917, for which occasion the Society purchased \$300 worth of seats and distributed them among the instructors in German in the high schools and colleges of the city.

The committee which was appointed to prepare a plan for accumulating a body of exhibition material for the purpose of encouraging and vitalizing the study of German literature and art in our schools and colleges, has been unable, for obvious reasons, to make any progress whatsoever. All such plans will, of necessity, have to be held in abeyance until the conclusion of peace, at which time undoubtedly the Society will desire to subject them to fresh consideration

and decision in view of the new responsibilities which will doubtless then rest upon us as an organization.

It was because of this very sense of grave responsibility for the future that the Board of Directors unanimously decided upon the suspension of the Society's activities when on April 6 of this year the Congress of the United States declared a state of war to exist between our country and Germany. The president, Dr. A. Jacobi, called a special meeting of the Board of Directors, which was held in the Deutsches Haus of Columbia University, 419 West 117th Street, on April 12, 1917, at which the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, That since war exists between the United States and Germany, all activities of the Germanistic Society are hereby suspended until further action by the Board of Directors, with a view to conserving the organization and resources of the Society for the more effective carrying on of its educational work when peace shall have been declared.

In the discussion of this resolution particular emphasis was laid upon the purpose as stated in the latter part of it and the conviction was expressed that upon the conclusion of the present conflict an unparalleled opportunity for useful service and with it a much more serious responsibility than had ever before rested upon it, would await our Society. It was clearly the sense of this meeting that the organization of the Germanistic Society should be kept intact in order to be ready to meet these opportunities and responsibilities when the war should be ended. As matters then stood, the Society had practically completed its usual annual program of lectures.

With the appearance of the March number of the Germanistic Society Quarterly its publication also was temporarily suspended and subscribers were offered the choice of having the pro-rata amount of their subscriptions returned

or of having their names carried upon our books until such time as publication of the magazine should be resumed.

A careful revision of the list of members shows that the Society still has 135 annual members in good standing, in addition to ten who have been in arrears for more than one year in the payment of dues. Some of these, because of extended travel, or for other reasons, may have failed to receive their annual notification. It is unfortunately necessary to chronicle the removal by death of five of our members since the printing of our last membership list. They are Messrs. George C. Boldt, Paul Gottheil, Alfred Lichtenstein, Jacob Ruppert, and Carl Schefer. Resignations and removals account for the remaining difference of eighteen in the number of members for 1916-1917 and the present year. One new member has been enrolled.

As shown in the appended report of the treasurer, the finances of the Germanistic Society are in a very satisfactory condition, owing to the large saving involved in the suspension of our activities in the way of lectures and publications. The report shows a bank balance of \$4,457.49 aside from capital account; so that far from accumulating a liability, the society is harboring its financial resources for future needs.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. BRAUN

Corresponding Secretary

Germanistic Society of America

Financial Report as of November 24, 1917

Bank Balance, November 23, 1916 \$3,568.79

Receipts

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Dues of Members, 1917 | \$2,850.00 |
| Income on Investments (including \$160 matured coupons in process of collection) | 685.00 |
| Interest on Bank Account | 70.97 |
| Subscriptions to Germanistic Quarterly | 194.35 |
| Subscriptions to Mailing Fund | 174.25 |
| | <u>3,974.57</u> |
| | \$7,543.36 |

Disbursements

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Salaries | \$850.00 |
| Paid Lecturers | 442.50 |
| Rental of Lecture Rooms | 285.00 |
| Printing | 605.46 |
| Postage | 213.55 |
| Contribution to German Theater | 460.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 69.36 |
| Bank Balance on November 24, 1917 | \$2,925.87 |
| Matured coupons in process of collection | 4,457.49 |
| | <u>160.00</u> |
| | \$7,543.36 |

Capital Account

| In Safe Deposit: | Par Value | Cost | Annual Income |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Baltimore & Ohio First Mortgage 4% Bond at 98¾ | \$500.00 | \$493.75 | \$20.00 |
| Pennsylvania Railroad Consolidated Mortgage 4% Bonds at 102 | 2,000.00 | 2,040.00 | 80.00 |
| Union Pacific First Refunding Mortgage 4% Bond at 101 | 500.00 | 505.00 | 20.00 |
| Northern Pacific Prior Lien 4% Bonds at 89¾ | 11,000.00 | 9,924.45 | 440.00 |
| Baltimore & Ohio Refunding & General 5% Bonds at 100¾ | 2,000.00 | 2,005.00 | 100.00 |
| Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Preferred Stock at 101¾ | 500.00 | 505.63 | 25.00 |
| | <u>\$16,500.00</u> | <u>\$15,473.83</u> | <u>\$685.00</u> |

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Bank Balance | 4,457.49 |
| Matured Coupons in process of collection | 160.00 |
| Total Capital | <u>\$20,091.32</u> |

Approved:

EDWARD D. ADAMS
Chairman, Auditing Committee

C. L. SCHURZ
Treasurer

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